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REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on April 4, 2007. Claims 1-5 and 13-16 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 13 and 16 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended, Claims 6-12 have been cancelled and Claims 13-16 have been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the specification for including the terms "bate-stamped" and "bate-stamping services." Applicant respectfully submits that these terms are proper terms which refer to bate-stamps which are applied on documents. Since each document is stamped with a different bate-stamp (typically a number), the bate-stamp is used to identify a particular document from other documents. See, e.g., <http://www.batestamp.net> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bates_numbering. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0071233 issued to Nemeth et al. Claims 6, 7 and 9-12 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to better define Applicant's claimed subject matter.

Applicant's Claim 1 recites as follows:

An Internet Printing Protocol (IPP) payment system for paying for IPP services, said system comprising:

a plurality of IPP cards each having a unique identification code; at least one data structure storing a plurality of records, where each record includes an identification code and a monetary amount, and where each record corresponds to one of the plurality of IPP cards, such that the identification code of a particular record corresponds to the unique identification code of a particular IPP card of the plurality of IPP cards; and

a processor for determining if the monetary amount corresponding to one of the plurality of IPP cards is sufficient for the payment of an IPP service and for assigning a

password to at least one identification code of at least one of the plurality of records, said processor further receiving only a password and facilitating payment of said IPP services by verifying whether said received password is assigned to said at least one identification code. (Emphasis added)

Nemeth et al. teaches away from Applicant's claim recitations, especially the claim recitations underlined above. Nemeth et al. discloses a payment card and method where the payment card includes a concealed code. According to Nemeth et al. at paragraph 0023, "the user only needs to quote the concealed code which has been obtained from the card. This code will then be transmitted, via the web site offering the commodity/service, to the card offerors central system for verification. In addition to the code information concerning the IP-address of the user, the IP-address of the web site and password are also transmitted."

In contrast, Applicant's Claim 1 recites the "processor receiving only a password and facilitating payment of said IPP services by verifying whether said received password is assigned to said at least one identification code." Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) with respect to Claim 1 over Nemeth et al. and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-5 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 2-5 are patentable over Nemeth et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) with respect to Claims 2-5 over Nemeth et al. and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0071233 issued to Nemeth et al. in view of U.S. Patent

Publication No. 2003/0093216 issued to Akiyama. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

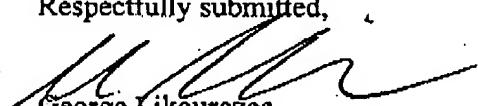
Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that new Claims 13-16 recite patentable subject matter and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Applicant at (631) 220-5706.

Respectfully submitted,



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